

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FREEBRIDGE LYNN

-4 JUN 1945
C.R. 113
ANNUAL REPORT of Dr. J. L. Appleton, Medical Officer
of Health, for the year ended 31st December, 1944,
in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 49/45
dated 19th March, 1945.

SECTION - A

<u>Area</u> ...	72,070 acres
<u>Population</u> ...	10,423
<u>Number of inhabited houses at end of 1944, according to Rate Books</u> ...	3155
<u>Rateable Value for whole District</u> ...	£32,446
<u>Product of penny rate</u> ...	£141
<u>Vital Statistics</u> ...	None available.

SECTION - BGENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

These remain the same as in previous years and reports.

SECTION - CSANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

- (i) Water. There was no serious or acute shortage of water during the year, but during the latter part of the summer a shortage arose in some villages solely dependent upon open wells, the majority of which were of the shallow well type.

The quality of the piped water supplies proved satisfactory. Samples from the mains at Great Massingham were taken in April and October, and samples from the private piped supply at Castle Rising were also taken and proved satisfactory. At present 16.4 % of the houses in the District are supplied from piped water mains.

General Statistics

No. of Houses in District supplied by Piped Water - 272 i.e. 8.6%
No. of Houses in District served by water standpipes 246 i.e. 7.8%

Total number 518 houses,
i.e. 16.4 %

By agreement with the Air Ministry the village of Great Massingham is now supplied with water derived from the Air Ministry bore-well at Little Massingham. The Council's 4" bore-well is held in reserve, but use is made of the Council's existing distributing mains, which according to the agreement are to be maintained by the Air Ministry.

A scheme costing £72,000 for the supply of water to the greater part of the District has been prepared. This is part of a Government Scheme for the whole country.

- (ii) Drainage and Sewerage. This remains much the same as in previous years. At the same time improvements are gradually being made, but in a Rural District it is bound to be slow. A general scheme such as that relating to water is wanted, and will probably eventually materialize.
- (iii) Scavenging. The mechanical cesspool and night-soil emptier purchased this year has proved far more hygienic in collections. In addition, cesspools throughout the District are now serviced by this machine. It is to be hoped that in the near future, when the question of labour becomes less acute, a general Scavenging Scheme for the whole District will be introduced, now that the Council possesses the necessary vehicles.

SECTION - D

Housing. Except for urgent repair work under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, very little building work has been carried out. In two instances advantage was made of applying for grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts; on the advice of the Ministry of Health, and only after prolonged discussion, the Council agreed to both grants. The Council are, however, preparing the groundwork for a Post-War Housing Scheme, such as fixing sites in certain villages and examining plans of the type of house to be built. This is all part of a National Scheme for a post-war housing campaign.

<u>Milk.</u>	Registered Cowkeepers	101
	Samples for Tuberculin Test	20
	Samples proved negative	19
	Samples proved positive	1
	Accredited Producers	12
	Samples for Methylene Blue Test	22
	No. of repeat samples	4

SECTION - E

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DISEASE	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	Nil	-	-
Scarlet fever	15	4	-
Diphtheria	Nil	-	-
Enteric fever (including	Nil	-	-
Pneumonia /Paratyphoid)	13	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Ophthalmia	Nil	-	-
Measles	39	-	-
Whooping Cough	73	-	-
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	Nil	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	Nil	-	-
Infectious Hepatitis	4	-	-
Total	146	4	Nil

Compared with last year, there has been a reduction in the Measles return but a considerable increase in Whooping Cough; also a reduction in Scarlet Fever. Pneumonia is about the same. The absence of any cases of Diphtheria or Puerperal Pyrexia is gratifying.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following are the number of new cases notified during the year:-

Male Pulmonary	3
Male Non-Pulmonary	2
Female Pulmonary	3
Female Non-Pulmonary	6
	<u>14</u>

There is an increase in Female Non-Pulmonary cases from last year, when the number was nil; otherwise the number is about the same. Modern and earlier methods of diagnosis and treatment play a great part in arresting the progress of this disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. This is being continued to a great extent. I am, however, afraid there is a tendency to overlook the importance of this preventive. The fact that diphtheria is now a rare disease in the district may partly account for it. There was no notification of Diphtheria during the year 1944.

SCABIES. Has been prevalent in the District. The supply of special lotion (Benzyl-Benzate) by the Council has been a great help in treating this troublesome skin disease.

VENEREAL DISEASE. It is difficult for me to assess the prevalence of this in the District; most of the patients suffering probably attend the Clinic at King's Lynn Hospital. I am, however, of opinion there is no undue amount of venereal disease in this Rural District.

GENERAL REMARKS

There is no outstanding fact to record in the General Health of the District. Speaking generally it has been a healthy year; no great epidemic, leaving children's ailments out of account. There may be some degree of war weariness, but I consider the mass of the population are sticking out the war in a splendid and determined manner.